Estimated Weekly Crop Water Use for Field Crops in Michigan (in/week)

Week of September 7 - 13, 2026

Crop	Growth stage	Crop water use (in/week)			
		Constantine	Berrien Springs	Entrican	Hart
	Reference ET	0.91	0.97	0.94	0.93
Corn	VT, Silk, Blister, Dough, Begin Dent	1.00	1.07	1.03	1.02
	Full Dent	0.91	0.97	0.94	0.93
	Black Layer	0.60	0.64	0.62	0.61
Soybeans	R3 (Begin pod) - R4 (Full pod)	1.00	1.07	1.03	1.02
	R5 (Begin seed) - R6 (Full seed)	1.00	1.07	1.03	1.02
	Begin Mature	0.73	0.78	0.75	0.74
Potato	Bulk	0.55	0.58	0.56	0.56
	Pre-Senescence	0.27	0.29	0.28	0.28
	Maturity	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.09

This table presents projected potential crop evapotranspiration values for field crops in Michigan and does not account for precipitation obtained during the week of calculation. The procedure used for the calculation was based on the FAO-56 single crop coefficient approach: https://www.fao.org/4/X0490E/x0490e0b.htm#TopOfPage. Reference evapotranspiration values were obtained from https://enviroweather.msu.edu/.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- R5 (dent) **corn** uses about 1 inch/week. Once corn reaches the black layer (maturity), water use decreases to about 0.6 inches per week, and additional irrigation may no longer be beneficial. Start planning your last irrigation.
- R6 **soybeans** use about 1 inch/week. Check soil moisture before the last irrigation; ~50% yellow leaves is a good irrigation endpoint.
- Cooler temperatures and variable rainfall will reduce crop water demand.

This week estimated rainfall (in/week)			
Constantine	Berrien Springs	Entrican	Hart
0.04	0.14	0.25	0.11

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